

Water District 27
Advisory Board Meeting
January 7, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.
IDWR – Idaho Falls Conference Room

Chairman Bob Reid called the meeting to order @ 2:02 pm. Board members in attendance were: Bob Reid, Mark Pratt, Marvin Yancey, Trish Arave, and David Bollinger (BIA). Others in attendance were: Jami Farris, Brandon McKean, Clifford Buckskin, Manuel Diaz, Lyle Swank, Wendy Murphy, and Robert Keller.

David Bollinger introduced Manuel Diaz, BIA Engineer/ Hydrologist. Manuel will play a large part in the quantification of the Management Plan for the project.

The minutes from the January 8, 2013 Advisory Board were read by Wendy Murphy. Corrections were made in the third paragraph to the end, second sentence to end with "volume is 38,264 acre-feet for 2012." Mark Pratt moved to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by David Bollinger and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Lyle indicated after many years of working on the Blackfoot River Water Management Plan the Plan has been signed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources Director. The plan will take additional administration starting in 2014 not previously required in the Water District. The updates will be available on the website. David Bollinger indicated the collaboration of Clifford Buckskin and Robert Keller worked out fairly well in 2013. It was requested to have copies of the Plan available at the annual meeting as well as information on how to find the information on the website. The last step of the agreement was establishing a "Supplemental Equitable Adjustment Water" in case all credits and EA water had been utilized. This would be split 1/3 between the State, WD1 users, and WD27 users.

Lyle reviewed the resolutions noting date changes from the previous year. Lyle indicated there is proposed legislation to increase the limit of the minimum charge for water users. The proposed budget for 2014 was also presented with no recommended increase. There was also discussion regarding a need for a resolution to establishing a reserve fund in the event water needs to be purchased by the Basin 27 users. If the Supplemental EA Water is needed the Basin 27 users would need to purchase 3,334 acre-feet. The purchase price could range from \$7.65 to \$25.25 per acre-foot currently. It was requested to circulate a draft resolution and potential cost per Basin 27 users to the board for further discussion. Bob Reid will discuss this item with the Basin 27 users at the annual meeting. Marvin Yancey moved to recommend for approval the resolutions as presented to the district at their annual meeting. Trish Arvey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Wendy reviewed the projected actual expenditures for 2013. The expenditures as projected to be under budget by \$7,000. Mark Pratt moved to retain the earning for future expenses, David Bollinger seconded the motion and the motion passed. Robert Keller also indicated the pressure transducers that were installed have a five year warranty. As they wear out they will need to be replaced. There are currently eight in the field at a cost of \$400 per transducer. The Watermaster Report and Proposed Assessments presented today are draft in anticipation of potential changes in the Point of Diversion count.

Rob Keller followed up on the discussion regarding water users diverting in excess of their water rights. No letter was sent for the 2012 excess use because a rate was not decided by the board. The 2013 excess uses were about 6500 acre-feet. And canal managers were notified when they were in excess of their water rights. Robert Keller indicated the primary volume is 44,368 acre-feet for 2013. The board felt more information on the cause of the excess use and if the water users were under at other times needed to be further analyzed before a recommendation could be made. It was recommended to have a board meeting in the fall, around the third week in August, to review the 2014 usage and any potential excess uses and causes. Following the Plan in 2014, the water use will be published weekly and warning notices are required when the 45,000 acre-feet is close.

Rob also provided an update to the headgate compliance order. Those that don't have head gates are not diverting water.

New Business:

The Northside Users created a legal defense fund to settle the Equitable Adjustment Issue and there is a balance in the fund. Mark Pratt suggested putting the information before the Basin 27 users at the annual meeting.

An update of the Snotel site will be presented at the annual meeting. Last year the reservoirs were fuller with a low snowpack. This year the reservoirs are low and we still have a majority of the snow accumulation season to go. The Blackfoot Reservoir is 44.6% full as compared to being 71% this time last year.

David Bollinger moved to adjourn, Marvin Yancey seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.


Wendy Murphy, Secretary